

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	19 th Aug 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat McEnaney
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1961 Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Screenty NS Secondary: Patrician College, Tullow, Co. Carlow; Patrician High School, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Rosemary with 5 sons
Club(s)	Corduff GFC
Occupation	Customer Service Manager Gypsum Industries
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Carrickmacross Soccer Club; Shercock Athletics Club

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Date of Report	4 th July 2012
Period Covered	1960s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Monaghan
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Education, Media, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Pat talks about his GAA playing days and life as a referee at the highest levels of the game. He grew up playing with the Corduff team with his brothers and when he was older in a team that was an amalgamation with the Carrickmacross side. His club had a good relationship with the Shercock team in Cavan and he also lined out with them. Pat also played soccer and went to a boarding school in Carlow, which exposed him to many different sports. Later in life he got involved in refereeing and rose rapidly through the ranks, refereeing at club, university and then inter-county level. In time he got to referee All-Ireland finals and was also appointed an International Rules referee, which brought him to Australia and gave him a taste of what life as a professional would be like. Pat reflects on the ups and downs of being a referee where one has to be a strong character in order to cope with being in the spotlight so much. He also outlines his approach to handling games and players, and offers his opinions on issues such as professionalism within the GAA and the prospects for female referees. A dedicated GAA man, Pat has enjoyed his experiences immensely and although the role of the referee can be perceived as being an isolated one he very much feels that he is part of the extended family network that is the Association.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:20 Earliest GAA memory - playing football for Corduff juveniles as a boy.</p>

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	<p>00:50 First visit to Croke Park. Going to an All-Ireland Colleges final in the early 1970s and Martin O'Neill playing for St Malachy's of Belfast. His cousin a substitute.</p> <p>01:10 Being at an All-Ireland semi-final and Cathal Digney sent off for Down.</p> <p>01:20 Father carrying him over the turnstiles.</p> <p>01:35 Playing in Nelson's field. ESB cables going across the field.</p> <p>02:00 Eight siblings. Playing football at home. Going to the Gold Watch tournament in Baillieborough.</p> <p>02:30 Father was a beef farmer. Reason for that.</p> <p>03:00 Mother was a Connolly and a good camogie player.</p> <p>03:15 Other sports not prominent in the area.</p> <p>03:55 Little interest in the history of the club.</p> <p>04:40 Little success on the pitch for Corduff. Lorcan and Tommy Callan characters at the club.</p> <p>05:25 The Red Collin, Peter Eoin Fealy and John Joe Cunningham fellow players.</p> <p>06:05 Being young on the team in the early 1980s.</p> <p>06:20 Making his junior debut on same team as his brother Tom and beating Blackhill. Celebrations afterwards.</p> <p>06:50 Role of football in his life.</p> <p>08:05 Training they did. Facilities at Corduff.</p> <p>09:20 Rivals were Carrickmacross Emmets. Amalgamating with them for the minor championship. Magheraclone and Aughnamullen also rivals.</p> <p>10:20 Reason for amalgamation with Carrickmacross. Differences he noticed in how things were done in the town club.</p> <p>11:40 Taking up soccer. Going to boarding school in Carlow and playing different sports.</p>
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	<p>12:25 Carrick Rovers a good side.</p> <p>12:40 Father in charge of the Corduff team and games overlapping. Problems at home.</p> <p>13:30 His experience of playing soccer.</p> <p>14:05 GAA in Carlow when he was there. Hurling prominent there. Rugby and tennis.</p> <p>15:20 Opinion on hurling. Watching Monaghan playing Kerry and Waterford playing Limerick in hurling afterwards.</p> <p>15:55 Sports at Patrician Brothers school in Carlow.</p> <p>16:30 Football only played at Corduff. No juvenile structures or dressing-rooms.</p> <p>17:30 Five McEnaneys at the club and the Connolly brothers also playing. Success they enjoyed on the field.</p> <p>18:25 Winning his first championship medal with the club. Celebrations. Visiting schools. Drink culture changing.</p> <p>19:50 Arriving into Carrickmacross and going to the pub there.</p> <p>20:15 Being friendly with Shercock in Cavan and visiting them with the cup.</p> <p>20:25 He and his brother winning an Under-12 championship medal with Carrickmacross and winning a title with Shercock against Laragh United a week later.</p> <p>21:15 Going to Shercock school for a day because Inspector McDonagh from the Laragh club was coming.</p> <p>21:55 Enjoying playing for Shercock – getting a bag of tayto and a club orange.</p> <p>22:25 Playing league football for the county minors and challenge games for the Under-21s.</p> <p>23:50 Less fuss about making the county team in 2010.</p> <p>24:05 Training at county level.</p>
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<p>24:45 Travelling in Skinny McDermott's taxi to Croke Park when he was younger.</p> <p>25:55 Gold Watch tournaments. Clubs like Crosserlough from Cavan, Carbury from Kildare, Castleblayney, Cooley Kickhams taking part. Crowds in attendance.</p> <p>26:45 Attempts to revive the tournament. Reasons tournaments are not as popular anymore.</p> <p>27:25 Opinion of the Railway Cup. Father telling him stories about when it was popular.</p> <p>28:25 Prominence of club championship.</p> <p>28:40 Getting involved in refereeing due to an injury sustained when he was 22. Being in hospital.</p> <p>30:20 Páraic Duffy recruiting referees.</p> <p>31:05 Adapting well to refereeing. Enjoying it.</p> <p>32:05 Refereeing juvenile football initially and then a junior B final.</p> <p>32:20 Training he got.</p> <p>33:05 Abuse in the early days.</p> <p>33:45 Not paying attention to abuse or what people say to him after games.</p> <p>34:35 Picking his umpires. Playing at the same time.</p> <p>35:10 Refereeing MacRory Cup colleges games. Seamus Murray putting his name forward for that. Benefits of the experience. Admiration for that competition.</p> <p>36:25 His playing career extended due to all the training he was doing.</p> <p>37:45 Problems club players have keeping fit.</p> <p>37:25 Getting involved in inter-county refereeing. Phone call from Croke Park about refereeing an Antrim / Wicklow National League game. Wife not believing the caller.</p> <p>38:25 Going to Casement Park. Steward not realising he was</p>

	<p>the referee.</p> <p>39:00 Memories of the game. Meeting Jack Boothman and Gerry Adams of Sinn Féin.</p> <p>39:50 Paddy Collins and Seamus Murray giving him advice.</p> <p>40:20 Learning from his own mistakes.</p> <p>40:45 Development as a referee.</p> <p>42:00 Inter-county refereeing compared to club refereeing. Intensity of colleges football.</p> <p>42:50 Refereeing Sigerson Cup games and what that was like.</p> <p>43:25 Different styles needed for different competitions and levels.</p> <p>44:00 Difference between county, club and colleges games.</p> <p>45:35 Average match day as a referee. Keeping it simple.</p> <p>46:40 Inter-county match days. Talking to umpires.</p> <p>47:10 Umpires he has used over the years. Francie McMahon, Jim Fox, Gene Coleman, Tom Connolly umpires who have died.</p> <p>47:45 Joe McQuillan and Jimmy Galligan referees who are part of his team. Jimmy Finnegan and Mark Gilsenan also involved.</p> <p>48:15 Personal friends not involved.</p> <p>48:35 Refereeing Cork / Kerry Munster final in 1998. His attitude and how the game went. Learning from that game.</p> <p>50:10 Refereeing the All-Ireland final between Mayo and Meath in 1996. Colm Coyle and Liam McHale sent off. First game, a draw, going well. Being criticised after the second game. Father dying shortly afterwards.</p> <p>52:05 Melee at the Hill 16 end in that final. Consulting his umpires and linesmen. Thinking John McDermott and Liam McHale were to blame. Colm Coyle's name mentioned.</p>
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	<p>53:30 What he would have done differently.</p> <p>54:20 Media attention after the final. Learning from it.</p> <p>54:55 Refereeing shaping one's personality.</p> <p>56:05 Effect of incident on family life.</p> <p>57:30 Bouncing back from that setback.</p> <p>57:45 Refereeing Mayo in another All-Ireland final in 2004.</p> <p>58:00 Enjoying his refereeing career's progression.</p> <p>58:35 Refereeing International Rules games.</p> <p>58:50 Getting to travel a lot because of refereeing.</p> <p>59:25 Refereeing Tyrone and Derry in the 2010 National League. Poor performance and resultant self-doubt.</p> <p>01:00:10 Refereeing an All-Ireland final and what that is like.</p> <p>01:01:15 Refereeing Kerry and Galway in the 2000 All-Ireland final and enjoying it.</p> <p>01:01:35 Need to be able to accept criticism.</p> <p>01:01:55 Trusting in his umpires and linesmen.</p> <p>01:03:00 Tyrone and Derry playing in the 1990s. Rivalry. Enjoying the challenge.</p> <p>01:03:40 Being friends with Ciaran McKeever, the Devlins, the Downeys and Plunkett Donnelly who featured in those games.</p> <p>01:04:35 Assessment of referees and what he thinks of that. Former referee John Gough assessing him.</p> <p>01:06:15 General approach to refereeing.</p> <p>01:07:45 Being a referee affecting his approach to playing the game.</p> <p>01:08:40 Avoiding gambling and going to horse racing due to his status as a referee.</p>
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	<p>01:09:10 Former referee John Bannon enjoying horse racing.</p> <p>01:09:55 Need to be honorable.</p> <p>01:10:40 Video evidence. Committees asking referees to review decisions.</p> <p>01:11:40 Future of video analysis.</p> <p>01:12:30 People enjoying controversy. Leinster final 2010.</p> <p>01:13:50 Rule changes over the years and their impact.</p> <p>01:14:45 Proposing the introduction of the kicking tee and reason for that. Pat Daly, Mick O'Dwyer on the committee examining the rules.</p> <p>01:15:55 Issue of the hand-pass in Gaelic football and his thoughts on that.</p> <p>01:18:05 Joe McQuillan refereeing a Kerry game and not being sure about a hand-pass.</p> <p>01:18:40 Frequency of rule changes in Gaelic football.</p> <p>01:19:40 Changes he would like to see introduced.</p> <p>01:20:50 International Rules. Opportunity it presents.</p> <p>01:21:45 Sligo's Eamonn O'Hara in the Irish squad. How he fitted in.</p> <p>01:22:40 Refereeing in Australia and representing his country.</p> <p>01:23:25 Refereeing in other countries.</p> <p>01:23:40 Going to New York on a Saturday and flying back the following day.</p> <p>01:24:00 Refereeing around the United States and the world.</p> <p>01:24:55 Standard of football overseas.</p> <p>01:24:50 Standard in Chicago in the 1980s. Wolfe Tone having a strong team featuring Kevin O'Brien from Wicklow. Kerry's Jack O'Shea playing over there.</p>
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	<p>01:25:35 Prospect of being paid as a professional.</p> <p>01:36:00 Experience of being a professional when he was in Australia.</p> <p>01:26:40 Reading soccer player Tony Adams' book and linking it to professionalism.</p> <p>01:27:40 Creeping professionalism in the GAA.</p> <p>01:28:25 Administrators and managers getting paid.</p> <p>01:30:00 Non-interest in getting involved in administration.</p> <p>01:30:40 Sitting on rule changes committees.</p> <p>01:31:20 Training of referees and how that could be improved.</p> <p>01:32:05 Refereeing evolving.</p> <p>01:32:40 Female referees. Patton lady in Monaghan doing well. Suffering verbal abuse from mothers.</p> <p>01:33:55 Prospect of women refereeing at inter-county level.</p> <p>01:34:40 Support from disciplinary committees at Croke Park.</p> <p>01:35:45 Developing pitches. What their pitch was like when he was playing.</p> <p>01:36:25 Brother Seamus and John Joe Cunningham on a committee to buy a new ground. Developing two new pitches.</p> <p>01:37:35 More people getting involved in the club.</p> <p>01:37:55 His brother Frank setting up a school of excellence in Corduff. Helping out there. Work going into the juvenile teams.</p> <p>01:39:05 Enjoying coaching young players.</p> <p>01:39:25 How he envisages his future GAA involvement.</p> <p>01:40:25 Need to be fit motivating him.</p> <p>01:41:00 Sacrifices he has made due to his GAA involvement.</p>
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	<p>01:42:25 Best GAA memory.</p> <p>01:42:45 Being in a bar in San Francisco with Gregory McCartan, Jack Sheedy and Kevin O'Brien when he heard Diana princess of Wales was dead.</p> <p>01:43:25 GAA heroes. Maurice Fitzgerald of Kerry a talented footballer. Peter Canavan of Tyrone, Jack O'Shea of Kerry, Colm O'Rourke of Meath, Seamus Moynihan of Kerry, Michael Donnellan and Pádraic Joyce of Galway players he admires.</p> <p>01:44:45 Perception of players like Meath's Graham Geraghty, Dublin's Keith Barr and Kerry's Paul Galvin.</p> <p>01:46:10 Disappointment when he broke his leg in an intermediate semi-final.</p> <p>01:47:00 What the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>01:48:45 Relationship with 2010 Kerry manager Jack O'Connor.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played from the age of 6 to 42. Won Under 12 and Under 18 championships; 2 junior championships and 1 intermediate championship.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Refereed 3 All-Irelands and a Replay.</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:49:55
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

I hereby assign the copyright of the content of the above to the GAA Oral History Project on the understanding that the content will not be used in a derogatory manner. I understand that I am giving the GAA Oral History Project the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____04/07/12_____